



Example of locust type trees for cafes areas within the park



Example of existing flowering street tree within the District



Example of densely planted trees that could occur within the park



Example of successful use of street trees

GREENERY in the DISTRICT

Green areas are extremely limited in the District; additional street trees would soften hard surfaces, provide protection from elements in all seasons, filter air and light, and add the beauty of soft greenery to streets. In specific areas such as parks and pedestrian ways through blocks can have a major impact in defining sheltering places for people, contributing to an environment which is inviting for sitting, eating, visiting, playing, and just taking time out.

There are some conventions for the use of trees in the city (plane trees for residential areas, locusts for parks and plazas). Yet, new planting should not be standard or uniform; a variety of plant materials may be used to establish the contrasting character of Calhoun and McMillan from side streets, important vistas, and park areas.

Our general recommendation is to use trees that emphasis the east-west rhythm of the streets and to give Calhoun and McMillan an individual, yet cohesive character. Lighter shade trees, in a rhythmic pattern should be used on both Calhoun and McMillan to enhance the wider sidewalks and retail storefronts that occur along these two main throughfares. Their identity can be enriched further by the use of awnings and/or additional ground plantings that would reinforce the retail and residential quality of Calhoun and McMillan respectively.

Low Planting

Low evergreen and flowering foundation planting, used in retainer boxes and behind low walls, should be a visible part of the urban landscape vocabulary to set off (in lieu of grass) the abundant green of leafy tree. Low planting can frame boundaries and level changes, and define walkways as well as places people should not walk. The available vocabulary of plant materials is large, and should be imaginatively and generously employed. Greenery in the District is a luxury -- an affordable one -- that the whole populace can enjoy.

Open Space

The new park created by the extension of Moerlein and just east of Hartshorn offers an exciting opportunity to create both an active and passive environment. Large expanses of the park could be allocated for passive activities such as sitting, throwing frizbees, laying on the grass while a smaller section would be set aside for active uses such as outdoor cafes, flower shop, and concerts. The use of "locust" type trees for outdoor seating would provide shade, yet light filter through. The larger grassy areas could be defined by lower and denser shrubs which would allow for visibility/security while separating it from the noise and sight of vehicular traffic.

The green space that is being developed by the University on the corner of Dennis and Calhoun would vary from the new park in use and texture. This area would be more active by the use of daycare facilities and families. A playground and/or outdoor amphitheater would be provide the active component of open space within the District.

Recommendations:

- Develop a consistent tree vocabulary for McMillan and Calhoun. Trees should be regularly spaced (25' o.c.), except at special areas, where grouping would emphasis major entries to open spaces, special buildings and pedestrian ways. Trees along Calhoun would be pruned to allow for increased pedestrian traffic and provide good visibility to the storefronts, while allowing a thicker growth to occur along McMillan for increased shade.
- Use of lighter, smaller trees for pedestrian pathways with areas of low planting.
- The side streets connecting Calhoun and McMillan are to be planted with flowering trees, spaced approximately 30' on center.
- Develop a variety of trees and vegetation for the open spaces that would identify them as special places. Through planting patterns (i.e. allays, groves, random, etc.) and variety (i.e. deciduous, evergreen, etc.), unique areas will be created within the District.
- Encourage the use of potted/hanging plants within the District to create the image of a friendly and inviting community.
- Introduce other softening elements, such as fountains, trellises, umbrellas, outdoor markets that will encourage pedestrians and visitors to stop, to watch and to participate within the District.



Example of window boxes & other low plantings along storefronts